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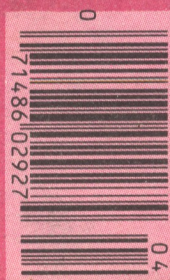
## Silver Fox

Leads The Growing  
Sanyo Pack



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# ATARI

## Applying The Atari

by Jeff Brenner

This month we've got all the exciting details on Atari's new products, which Atari expects to begin shipping to stores this month. We'll learn how last month's Alarm Clock Program works, have a look at the reader mail and take some programming tips from readers. Also, I'll list the complete version of Program Perfect.

### Atari News

So, it looks as though Jack Tramiel did keep his promises. With the introduction of the 130ST and 520ST, Atari's first non-8 bit computer products, Atari has shown that it is indeed alive. Let's get a brief run-down of the new units.

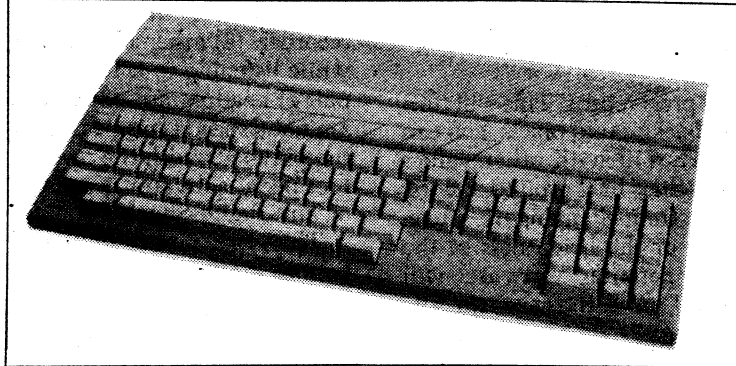
### The XE Line

Atari describes the XE line as the 1985 Atari XL models. Basically, the 65XE is an 800XL with an attractively redesigned case, a sculptured, high-quality keyboard, and a lower price. The PIO connector of the XL models, which was intended for future hardware expansion, is not included on the XE models. The 130XE has the same features as the 65XE, but contains 128K RAM. The 65XE and 130XE are to retail for approximately \$100 and \$180 respectively. Other Atari products, announced at the Winter CES in Las Vegas but not as official, are the 65XEM, a 65XE with 8-voice, music synthesizer capabilities, and the 65XEP, a portable XE with a built-in 3.5 inch disk drive and 5-inch screen.

A variety of printers were announced for the XE models, including a dot matrix impact, a letter quality daisy wheel, and a dot matrix thermal transfer printer. The impact and thermal printers offer near-letter quality print styles.

### The ST Line

The ST models will no doubt put Atari in the spotlight for 1985. The big question is whether any Atari model can tackle the seemingly impervious Apple Macintosh, even if the ST proves superior and costs a fraction of the price. Also, what happens if and



ATARI 520ST  
PERSONAL COMPUTER

when Commodore brings out its Macintosh-like Amiga computer? The battle is beginning all over again, folks. Whether the ST line is a success or a failure will depend largely upon the quantity and quality of software that is developed for it, as well as Jack Tramiel's marketing strategy.

The 130ST and 520ST offer 128K and 512K RAM (actually 131,072 and 524,288 bytes), respectively. The units use the same MC68000 CPU as the Macintosh, although Atari more accurately calls it a 16/32 bit microprocessor; Apple advertises the Macintosh as a 32-bit machine. The ST models use the CPM/86-k operating system and Graphics Environment Manager, developed by Digital Research, to give the icons, pull-down menus, windows and mouse-controlled operation that have brought the Macintosh so much acclaim. The Atari ST brings this all one step further by offering color graphics, a capability not available on the Macintosh. The three graphics modes on the ST consist of a 320-by-200 pixel, 16 color mode, a 640-by-200, four color mode, and a 640-by-400, one color mode.

Other features of the ST models include both an RS232C serial input/output port and a Centronics-type parallel port, a high-speed (1.3 megabytes/second) hard disk interface, monitor jacks for TV, RGB and monochrome, A sculptured keyboard with numeric keypad, a three-voice sound generator and a Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI). Including the MIDI interface was a great idea and may make the ST models extremely practical musician's tools. Many of the newest syn-

thesizers and electronic instruments utilize the MIDI standard.

A 500K, 3.5 inch disk drive will be sold in a separate component for the ST units. A 10-megabyte, 3.5 inch hard disk drive is to be available for the ST for under \$600. Utilizing the 1.3 megabytes/second data transfer rate, this drive should be incredible at the price.

Atari has talked about even another computer to be introduced in Hannover, Germany this month. This one is to have a true 32-bit microprocessor and over 1 megabyte of RAM storage (1 megabyte is 1000K). It's surely an Atari product I'm anxious to see.

### Reader Mail

*Are there any POKE commands which would allow older cartridges (for 400/800 series) to run on an 800XL?*

John B. Neff  
East Brunswick, NJ

Many older programs for the 400/800 will still run on the XL models, especially software produced by Atari. For those that are incompatible, there are no simple POKE commands to make them work on an XL, but you can get a "translator" disk. This disk gives your XL the operating system of the 400/800 and allows it to run almost all of the older software. It's available from Atari (Customer Relations, P.O. Box 61657, Sunnyvale, CA 94088, Attn: Translator Disk) for \$9.95 + \$2.50 postage and handling. You can also purchase one from Dynacomp (1064 Gravel Road, Webster,



65 XE PERSONAL COMPUTER

NY 14580) for \$5.00 + \$3.00 p. & h.

*I have run into problems due to the format my writing must be in. Simply, I write scripts, i.e., screenplays. The format demands whole page action description, smaller margin dialog, and approximately centered but left-justified names. My problem is that with AtariWriter, I must continually use control codes for screen directions for action descriptions. The TAB won't work because I don't know of a way to, say, insert a few new lines of dialog later when editing. I think I need an 80-column card (to be able to see exactly where I am tabbing). Do you know where a good 80-column card for the 800XL can be got, or do you have any other suggestions, say in the area of my getting another word processor?*

Fred Walters  
Oklahoma City, OK

Your use of the control codes to change the printing margins is probably the best way to get the format that you need when using AtariWriter. As you realized, the tab is not appropriate for your needs since you would have to tab at the beginning of each printed line for a dialog of more than one line. During editing, there's no easy way to know where the next line will begin on a 40-column screen.

I assume that your problem is the inconvenience of constantly adding control codes for your ever-changing margins. I see no easier way of doing this with your present system. An 80-column card, by itself, is

not the answer. AtariWriter and almost all other word processors for the Atari were designed for a 40-column screen, so an 80-column card would make things worse, not better. However, an 80-column card combined with a compatible word processor might simplify your problem by making tabbing feasible, since you would be able to see exactly what will appear on paper without the tedious, scrolling preview mode of AtariWriter. One word processor that supports 80-columns that I have seen advertised recently is Atari Paper Clip from Batteries Included. It works with their Atari B.I. 80-column display adapter for XL systems. (Contact: Batteries Included, 17875 Sky Park North, Suite P, Irvine, CA 92714, 416 596-1405).

Another alternative is HomeWord from Sierra On-Line. At \$69.95/disk it might be just what you are looking for. In the lower, right-hand corner of the screen, HomeWord gives you a smaller screen that shows you how the finished page will look. Each character is represented by a small graphics pixel. A flashing cursor on this mini-screen lets you see your position on the page as you type your document. Thus, it would let you see the exact position to which you are tabbing. Additionally, it gives you a preview of the printed page, as AtariWriter does, but has the advantage of giving you an 80-column display. No adapter is needed since it uses the Atari's high resolution graphics to form the

Continued On Page 56

### Applying The Atari Continued From Page 55

letters. (Contact: Sierra On-Line, Inc., P.O. Box 458, Coarsegold, CA 93614.)

I'd just love to have an Atari 800XL computer. But I hesitate getting one because on every one I've seen being demonstrated, the letters on the screen are "fuzzy". They seem to look fuzzy even on a

monitor. I thought maybe my eyes were going away so I had a friend check it out and he noticed that when letters are typed on the screen they are not sharp. He even went to another store -- same story! Any idea what's going on? All the 800XLs I looked at did not have any software running. Maybe the picture is sharper with software running. I don't want to have to purchase a

Commodore if possible.

M.L. McCrery  
Lewiston, ID

Your problem is a most unusual one in that the Atari has always been noted for its excellent display. You should be able to tune the television to get a sharp, clear image. Or, perhaps it is the blue background. If that is the case, try typing:

POKE 710,0

and press return. This will turn the background black. You can POKE 710 with other values for other background colors. Aside from changing the screen color or the brightness of the text, running software will make no difference on the letters.

Personally, I own both Atari and Commodore systems and have always been more satisfied with my Atari's display.

If you are interested in the 800XL, I suggest at this time that you look into the newer 65XE or 130XE which should be available this month.

### Programming Tips

This section contains programming hints and suggestions sent in by readers. If your tip is printed, you'll receive a three-dimensional holograph sticker.

From M. Rose (Cambridge, MA):

If you need a fast, reliable renumbering program for Atari BASIC programs, and if you own Microsoft BASIC, you can use Microsoft to renumber Atari BASIC! First, LIST your Atari BASIC program on cassette or diskette. Boot up with Microsoft and LOAD the program. Execute the RENUM command and SAVE the renumbered program back to

cassette or diskette. Then, ENTER the program back in with the Atari BASIC. Microsoft will renumber all Atari BASIC statements with line numbers except for TRAP.

From Marvin Oppenheim (Monsey, NY):

In order to make it easier for me to type in program listings (especially long ones) I do the following: (1) I first dictate the entire listing into a tape recorder. (2) I then play it back while listening to it through a pair of headphones. (3) Since I am not a speed typist, I control the playback with the use of a foot pedal activator (available at any Radio Shack).

This sure makes typing in listings a lot easier.

### Users Groups

I received an issue of the Pokey Press, "the official newsletter" of the Atari Computer Club of the Palm Beaches (Contact: Jim Woodward, 15993 S.W. 8th Ave. B-101, Delray Beach, FL 33444, Editor: Marvin Cox). It's interesting to see what's happening in Atari users groups around the country. Many of these newsletters have been useful and important information to share with the rest of the Atari world. I'd like to receive newsletters from other Atari users groups. Send them in. I'll try to mention as many as I can in the column. Hopefully, this column can serve as a national communications link among the many Atari users groups across the country.

### Alarm Clock Operation

Let's take a brief look at how last month's Alarm Clock program works. The BASIC program you entered for the Alarm Clock contains a machine language program which is placed on Page 6 of memory. Page 6 is the area which does not interfere with

your BASIC program memory.

The machine language program is then set up as part of the Atari's vertical blank routine. Every 1/60th of a second, the Atari jumps to a program in its operating system which updates the color registers, increments or decrements internal counters, and performs a variety of other tasks. This program is called the vertical blank routine. The clock program is added as an extension of this routine, and thus it runs 60 times per second.

The machine language clock routine keeps track of the number of times it has been executed. When it counts to 60, the program updates a counter containing the number of seconds which have elapsed. When the second-counter reaches 60, a minute counter is incremented, and, in turn, when the minute-counter reaches 60, the hour-counter is increased. Collectively displayed, these counters tell you the time.

In addition to incrementing counters, the routine checks if the current time is the same as the time set for the alarm. If they are equal, the alarm sounds and continues to beep until it detects that the START button has been depressed.

For those interested in assembly language, an assembly listing of this routine appears under the "Alarm Clock Assembly Code" heading.

Alarm Clock Assembly Code here.

### Program Perfect

For the benefit of those new to Computer Shopper, and to those who had difficulty in entering this program due to its listing and revision over two issues, a complete, final, never-to-be-changed listing appears under "Program Perfect."

### Next Month

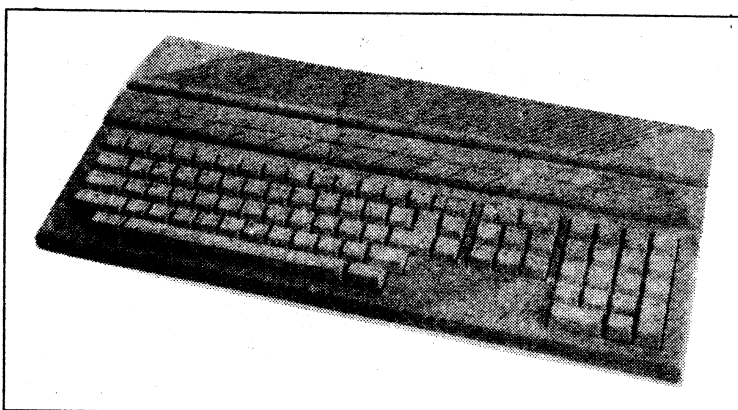
We'll have a program to liven up your Graphics 0 display, plus we'll start entering a business applications program for those who keep mailing lists. As usual, we'll cover reader mail and learn more programming tips.

Reader's questions, comments and contributions are welcome. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a personal reply.

A cassette or diskette of any program appearing in this column is available from the author for \$5.00 per program, postpaid. Specify DOS 2 or DOS 3 when requesting a disk.

Address all correspondence to:

Jeff Brenner's  
"Applying the Atari"  
c/o Computer Shopper  
P.O. Box F  
Titusville, FL 32781 •



ATARI 130ST  
PERSONAL COMPUTER

### ALARM CLOCK ASSEMBLY LISTING

```

10  *=$600
20  PLA
30  LDX #START/256
40  LDY #START&255
50  LDA #07
60  JSR $E45C
70  LDA #00
80  STA VAR3
90  RTS
0100 START SED
0110 LDX #0
0120 BACK LDA $CC,X
0130 CLC
0140 ADC #01
0150 STA $CC,X
0160 CMP #060
0170 BNE NONE
0180 LDA #00
0190 STA $CC,X
0270 SKIP INX
0280 CPX #3
0290 BNE BACK
0300 LDA $CF
0310 CLC
0320 ADC #1
0330 STA $CF
0340 CMP #013
0350 BNE NONE
0360 LDA #01
0370 STA $CF
0380 NONE CPX #2
0381 BCC NONE2
0382 LDA $CF
0383 CMP VAR1
0384 BNE NONE2
0385 LDA $CE
0386 CMP VAR2
0387 BNE NONE2
0388 INC VAR3
0389 NONE2 CLD
0390 LDY #012
0400 LDX #1
0410 LOOP LDA $CE,X
0420 LSR A
0430 LSR A
0440 LSR A
0450 LSR A
0460 ORA #144
0470 STA ($58),Y
0480 INY
0490 LDA $CE,X
0500 AND #0F
0510 ORA #144
0520 STA ($58),Y
0530 INY
0540 INY
0550 DEX
0560 BPL LOOP
0570 DEY
0580 DEY
0581 DEY
0582 DEY
0590 LDA #154
0600 LDX $CC
0610 CPX #030
0620 BCC COLON
0630 LDA #128
0640 COLON STA ($58),Y
0650 DEY
0660 DEY
0670 LDA ($58),Y
0680 CMP #144
0690 BNE NOTHING
0700 LDA #0
0710 STA ($58),Y
0720 NOTHING LDA VAR3
0730 BEQ JUMP
0740 LDA $CC
0750 CMP #030
0760 BCC SOUND1
0770 LDA #020
0780 STA $D200
0790 LDA #0CB
0800 STA $D201
0810 BNE JUMP
0820 SOUND1 LDA #0A0
0830 STA $D201
0840 JUMP LDA $D01F
0850 CMP #006
0860 BNE NOPRESS
0870 LDA #0
0880 STA $D200
0890 STA $D201
0900 STA VAR3
0910 NOPRESS LDA $54
0920 BNE NOTOP
0930 LDA #0BF
0940 STA $2FC
0950 NOTOP JMP $E462
0960 VAR1 .BYTE 0
0970 VAR2 .BYTE 0
0980 VAR3 .BYTE 0
0990 .END

```

### PROGRAM PERFECT

```

30000 CLR :CLOSE #1:CLOSE #2:N1:=N1+N1:N4:=N4+N4:N5:=N5+N5:N3:=N3+N3:N6:=N6+N6
30010 DIM LNS(120):OPEN #1,N0,"E":OPEN #2,N0,"K:"
30020 PRINT CHR$(125):POSITION 12,N0:PRINT "*****":POSITION 12,N1
30030 PRINT "By Jeff Brenner":IF ST THEN PRINT :PRINT "Current line:":ST
30040 IF NOT ST THEN PRINT :PRINT "Starting line:":INPUT #16:ST
30050 POSITION N39,5:?" :POSITION N39,6:?" :POSITION N39,7:?"
30060 POSITION N2,5:PRINT "----":ST:POKE N85,N2:PRINT "----":CHR$(30):FOR I=N1 TO 3
30070 POKE 702,64:POKE 694,0:GET #2,N1:IF N1=126 AND I=N1 THEN PRINT CHR$(30):"---":CHR$(30):I:=I-1
30080 GOTO 30070
30090 IF N1=N65 OR N1=N90 THEN GOSUB 30310:GOTO 30070
30090 PRINT CHR$(N1):NEXT I:SP=LEN(STR$(ST))
30100 FOR I=N1 TO SP+N2:?" :NEXT I:Y=PEEK(N84):X=PEEK(N85):ES=N0
30110 GET #2,N1:IF N1=155 THEN POSITION 12,5:INPUT #N1:LNS:GOTO 30200
30120 IF N1=156 OR N1=157 THEN 30110
30130 IF ES THEN 30160
30140 IF (N1=29 AND PEEK(N84)=Y+N2) OR (N1=20 AND PEEK(N84)=Y) THEN 30110
30150 IF N1=125 THEN 30020
30160 PRINT CHR$(N1):ES=N0:IF PEEK(N84)=Y+N2 THEN 30190
30170 IF PEEK(N84)=5 AND PEEK(N85)=SP+6 THEN 30060
30180 GOTO 30110
30190 GOSUB 30310:POKE N85,N39:POKE N84,Y+N2:PRINT CHR$(20):CHR$(29):GOTO 30110
30200 POSITION N39,10:?" :POSITION N39,11:?" :POSITION N39,12:?"
30210 T2=26*(ASC(LNS(N1,N1))-N65)+ASC(LNS(N2,N2))-N65:NL=ASC(LNS(3,3))-N65+N1
30220 POSITION N2,10:PRINT CHR$(156):LNS(15,LEN(LNS)):PRINT :PRINT CHR$(157):"CONT"
30230 POSITION N2,0:POKE 842,13:STOP
30240 POKE 842,12:POSITION N2,10:PRINT CHR$(156):POSITION N2,9:LIST ST
30250 T=NL:POSITION N2,10:INPUT #N1:LNS:FOR I=N1 TO LEN(LNS):T=T+ASC(LNS(I,1))
30260 IF T=650 THEN T=T-650
30270 NEXT I:IF T=T2 AND NL<26 THEN ST=ST+NL:GOTO 30020
30280 IF T=T2 AND NL=26 THEN 30320
30290 POSITION N2,9:FOR I=N1 TO 5:PRINT CHR$(156):NEXT I
30300 PRINT :PRINT "ERROR - TRY AGAIN":GOSUB 30310:GOTO 30060
30310 SOUND N0,N65,12,0:IF N1=N1 THEN SOUND N0,N0,N0,N0:RETURN
30320 PRINT CHR$(125):"END OF PROGRAM - *****"
30330 FOR I=30000 TO 30320 STEP 10:POSITION 2,4:PRINT I:PRINT "CONT"
30340 POSITION 2,2:POKE 842,13:STOP
30350 NEXT I:PRINT CHR$(125):FOR I=30300 TO 30370 STEP 10:PRINT I:NEXT I
30360 LNS="PROGRAM ENTRY COMPLETED.":PRINT "POKE 842,12:PRINT CHR$(125):LNS"
30370 POSITION 2,0:POKE 842,13:STOP

```

# Digital Research's GEM Operating Environment Debuts On Atari

Digital Research Inc. announced at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) here recently that it has signed the first in a series of agreements with microcomputer manufacturers licensing its GEM (graphics environment manager) operating system extension and

GEM desktop application.

Atari Corp., is the first original equipment manufacturer (OEM) whose personal computers will take advantage of GEM software's capabilities to provide a user interface like that of the popular Macintosh computer. Beginning in the

first quarter of 1985, GEM software will be available on the ST line of Atari personal computers product line of business personal computers.

GEM software eliminates cryptic operating system commands by presenting the user with a pictorial representation of a desk's surface. Familiar icons of disks and a wastebasket appear on the desktop, while folders and documents appear in user-controlled windows. Simply by moving the mouse and clicking its button,

the user can open a file, run a software program, delete a file, or do anything else allowed by the operating system.

"Because the GEM graphics-oriented user interface is easy to learn and use, these OEM agreements will make powerful personal computers accessible to a large number of consumer and business users," said John Rowley, president of Digital Research. "By 1986, we expect that GEM will be in use on more than a million machines."

## GEM Interface On New Atari Line

The entire family of Atari ST personal computers, based on the Motorola 68000 microprocessor, will employ GEM software. The first members, announced here, are the Atari 130 ST and 520 ST. They use a proprietary operating system developed jointly by Atari and Digital Research.

Said Sam Tramiel, president of Atari, "We chose the GEM interface because it represents the most advanced microcomputer technology for consumers to learn and use personal computers. It will help place Atari in a position to offer a powerful, easy-to-use personal computer at a low cost."

## Apricot Computers To Incorporate GEM

Britain's ACT and its U.S. marketing and distribution affiliate, Apricot Inc., will use GEM software worldwide on MS DOS-based business microcomputers to give them "cut-and-paste" facilities, complete graphics device and mouse support, windowing capabilities, icons and pull-down menus.

Existing MS DOS application programs not adapted to take advantage of the GEM software interface capabilities can still run unmodified on Apricot machine.

The entire Apricot product line will use GEM software, including the 512K Apricot F1s, the Apricot PC floppy disk, Apricot XI, the Apricot Por-

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Continued on page 158

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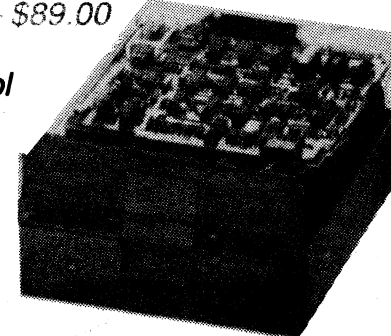
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### Assembly Language Continued from page 154

what it was you were trying to tell it to do.

Naturally, if you have error messages, the program is *guaranteed* not to run. If you have a success message, the program probably will *still* not run, or at least not on your first dozen tries.

For a successful program, you must first enter and use legal commands in a legal way in EDASM. After that, the object code that EDASM generates also must do legal things in an expected way for your program to work.

That just about completes our sixteen steps of a structured assembly language listing. The first of the ripoff modules is called EMPTY SHELL.-SOURCE, and appears later. This one is sort of like a Christmas tree you can hang all your ornaments on, and greatly simplifies organizing an structuring your source code. Since it is usually easier to edit a source code than create one, you might like to start with the empty shell and adapt it to your particular needs. Much more on this later.

For now, though, it looks like we are almost ready to actually enter and edit some source code.

### Digital Research Continued from page 156

table and the Apricot F1 and F1s microcomputers. Agreements With Independent Software Vendors

In order to ensure the success of GEM software, Digital Research has entered into agreements with a number of independent software vendors to provide GEM application software that will run on any MS DOS machine. In addition, software written to the

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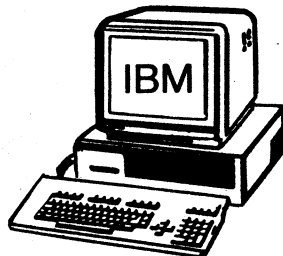
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